

Park St. Sunday aftⁿ. Mar 21st
1852

Dearest Miss Weston,

My letter writing experience being the
reverse of yours, & time for a sufficiently
long reply to you too late to satisfy me
having been wanting reconciled me to my
Aunt's being, while with us, the medium of
communicating to Paris the most of our
points in our proceedings. I thank to you
never attributing silence on my part to
any other cause than want of time, or
to deeming me ungrateful for your continued
affectionate recognition of us. Tho' it is
possible that the culminating point
of our sympathy may have been reached
before the festal days of our autumnal
gathering were ended, ~~the~~ love of each
member of that bright group is renewed
on every remembrance of them, & augmented
by any fresh incident that may affect
their weal or woe, & you will readily
believe that you are closely associated

with our observant interest of passing
events. I won't say how far we may have
a fellow feeling with your sister Anne
who intimates that, the Weston family
once out of Paris, she should feel little
further concern in the movements
of its inhabitants. My Father has under-
taken that departure of our controversy
& I have no inclination to embroil
myself. Certainly, my Aunt's inquiry as
to what I should have thought her
duty in regard to your urgent invitation
to her, provided health had not precluded
her accepting it, did extort a confession
that I should not feel myself justified
in exposing my precious life to even this
remaining degree of risk, for mere motives
of pleasure, this ^{unhappy} ~~was~~ the plea of duty I
should feel no hesitation in running
much greater hazard; but our careful scruti-
ning of your arguments for the continuance
of tranquility left us without much more
basis for inferring it than could be derived
from the circumstance of Mr Schaltebier

in London. This doubtless indicates our
stupidity and obstinacy, & prejudice, but
the confession proves our honesty at any
rate. I wish my Aunt had been able to
write to you herself; she left us more
than a week ago, but has not done rightly
~~that~~ announce her arrival since. I hope
change of air will do her good. She under-
took to relieve your mind on the subject
of the convention, but I dare say failed to
affore you of the depth of my sorrow with
myself (not with you at all,) ~~not~~ having expressed
poor E. Mathews's utterance of a wish for
what he fondly hoped might supply up
some of his own deficiencies & afford some
of the light that he found ^{unexpectedly} England de-
stitute of, in such a bungling way as
to enable you to argue that he was
silly to work calling the world together,
which would be as foreign from his
suspicion ^{was much beyond his powers} as summoning spirits
from the mighty deep. My Father
may perhaps give intimation of the
wounded pride which affected him
at your enforcing so unmistakeably that

you deemed us doomed by the gods for
destruction, as ^{to} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~ing~~ ^{ing} after ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the
close scrutiny, to go to Paris to learn the
disqualifications of E. Matthews for a
commanding post, & the extent of his
deficiencies & limitations of his capacities.
Nevertheless we were most grateful for
your sedulous vigilance in protecting
the Cause from harm thro' any inad-
vertence of ours, & trust we shall al-
ways accept your warnings & counsels
as to secure your repeating them when
they may be needed. My depression
of spirits arose from a different cause.
There seems a species of ingratitude, af-
ter giving our antislavery light & life to you
& your associates, to refuse to follow your
pointings of duty in any line of action.
Yet the very light you have imparted
will force us in a different track, &
while the star is moving on towards
the east we dare not stand in fond an-
nouncement fixing our glance on this spot
where its brightness was first manifested
& I own that some of you, still more

of Mr Chapman's recent deduction
from our common principles are
so strangely at variance with ours,
that it is an abiding enigma to me,
I turn thankfully to the press of actual
^{business in objects} work to banish the haunting unsolved
problems. But (as I feared) there is
no time for doing justice to any ar-
gument, so I will refrain from entering
into it. That you may not at once
clap us with the recreant betrayers
of the cause I will just tell you
that we feel no inclination or inten-
tion to lower our standard, & conceive
it impossible that any good end can
be served by any sort of compromise,
& that nothing will ever induce us to
recognize a foe of yours as in any
sense or degree the slave's friend.
But after this you must be resigned
to what Mr Chapman calls a coalition
with a union on our part; for since
a careful study of the Free Mission
Baptist's papers for more than twelve

months, & many other sources of information we have come to recognize them as your allies, &c. Think that the sweeping condemnation of them with American Foreign Soc^y, Trakhan movements, Canada missions, &c. & with those who have "everything to gain" by the cause, betokens an ignorance of ^{work & aim} of them, which should guard ^{you} against any strong expression, or draw more fearful conclusion is presented - viz. that Campbell, Catherine, Hapman & Scott have got hold of such a view of truth in reference to the hostility of the Boston abolitionists to Churches, as such, as will ~~paralyze~~ paralyze all our efforts to prove them storytellers. I want to know whether the whole reception of Indiana Friends are members of the Am. Society? because I can't see why if not they do not incur similar reproach with the F. M. Baptists, & I want Mr Chapman to explain in what sense the terms the latter "Baptist Abolitionists" differ from

that in which we are Unitarian Abolitionists
in what sole point our objects do
not accord. Sometimes I imagine an
association of proselyting is connected
with the term Mission in your minds,
whereas, that was ~~only~~ adopted because
Missionary objects are the only ones in
which Baptists co-operate. If people's
making Antislavery a sine qua non,
being snubbed, proscribed, trampled
up rather than have any connection
with slavery is not sufficient, unless
they promise not to spread any other
truth in concert at the same time
until slavery is abolished, I fear
the day of emancipation will be very
far off. These F. M. Baptists treat the
whole pro-slavery church just as severely
& dis criminatingly as Mr Garrison, they
point out every compromise of principle
ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ in their own & other denominations
just as unsparingly, I made observation
on the defectiveness of some resolutions
of a ^{late} Christian convention substantially
the same as Mr L. Ford (I think it was)

in the Liberator. They are also ^{admiringly} quoting
the smooth telling passages from your
speakers' monitors, & this' there is a good
deal of word-diddle about the grace of the
spirit &c. (in our eyes) & this' now & then
there may be some passage about
Liberty Party, these are never allowed
to cover over the lack of Antislavery
reality among various classes of pro-
fessors. I did not mean to take on
any defence of these people who are
quite above needing it, but for the
sake of the American Society if you
care for its ~~keeping~~ ^{retaining} English sympathies
I would you to suspend any open
censure of Free Mission Baptists till
you have studied them as carefully
as we have. I enclose the attractive
production of Mr Guthrie, which
if you are already prepared of please
return. We think you had better
see all the things that are in such
vigorous circulation, because you
sometimes seem to estimate all who
are deluded by these perverting efforts.

to decide them, as not worth
saying, because they have not
come by intuition to the truth which
has never found its way to them. I am
delighted to shake off all who accept
these falsehoods in preference to truth,
but not willing to convince ^{must be} all ^{types}
critics who have never dreamed there
was a different version, & you with
your clear insight into the comparative
mental tendencies of John Bull & John
Than, ought not to condemn the former
with that ^{natural} one-sidedness, for which would
exonerate even the many-sided American.
But I am writing in far too much
haste to be either intelligible or civil.
I wanted to unburden myself on
a few points & have ended with leaving
a great many in a heap, & not telling
any of our amusing work with Mr
Webb about Tappan & Scoble. You
shall see one sample of his proof.
The preceding 3 yards are gone
back to him. They are only detached
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pages to be arranged after being
submitted to us. I forwarded ^{him} Mrs
Chapman's invaluable commentary
I hope she will send its continuation
direct to Mr W. if it be not yet dis-
patched. We are determined to make
a vehement assault upon the
traitors. I long for you to see E.
Matthews's last reply to Scoble, which
I took upon myself to write but he
deemed "all that the crisis demanded."
Unhappily it has not yet appeared, &
Scoble is going to Mr Craik in private
to complain of his ^(wringing) letting Matthews
whip him in the A.D. The bright
thought struck me that if a certain
"A. Register" could be discovered in
which Benson ^{was} ~~had~~ once been described
as having some document which he
& Scoble have persisted in disclaiming
it would help on the exposure wonderfully.
So I threw myself up ~~on~~ Mr James's
indulgence & spent a week time with
him in his study while he ^{was writing} wrote his
sermon, ransacking a huge box of

papers, & was finally rewarded with
discovering the treasure which E.
Matthews thinks most "providential."
It will be so amusing to end round
the two contradictory statements
in which I leave S. O'Hendon to recon-
cile them, & then to follow up this
little incongruity with Mr. Webb's un-
sparing disclosure of all the dealings
of Scott & Co for the last 12 years.
Meanwhile my peculiar mission
is a contest with Dr Campbell, so
whatever else you may accuse
us of it will not be slumbering at
our posts. Miss Tribe has just
reappeared, but only in person, as
she is going to be married to a gentleman
at Hull. She looks about twice as
fat & merry as when we were last
together, I have only had one glimpse
at her tho'. Mr Armstrong has just re-
turned & begins to preach again. I hope
they don't mean to be ill for sometime
to come, but he looks very feeble. The

Three Miss Drumings mean to go to
Paris in about a fortnight & said
they should call upon you. They
are really very excellent people & I
don't think you found yourself
much in rapport with them in Bristol.
Walter called on us lately & spoke very
gratefully of your kind attentions
to him, & told a great many things
which brought you before us very
pleasantly. How ashamed I am
of this scrambling effusion, but I
had not even time to look for a proper
pen. Please accept my good inten-
tions and forgive all abruptness
or impertinencies; & go on loving &
counselling me however unworthy
I may seem. With fond remembrance
to all the circle your very affectionate

Mary Lettis.